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Arts Council Minutes 03/07/2001

Jefferson Cutter House

Present: Members -- Christine Alaimo, Mary Babic, Shari Craig, Cheryl Hemenway, Carol Mahoney, David Silverman

Guests -- Jamie Doyle

Absent: Kathleen Callahan Phelps, Robert Zinck

David Silverman called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

Item One -- Minutes

The minutes from February 7, 2001, should be amended as follows.

The first two Requests for Payment should read:

Robert Zinck moved to approve payment to Council member Christine Alaimo in the amount of \$32.26 for administrative costs. David Silverman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Robert Zinck moved to approve payment to Annie LaCourt for World Map Mural (grant #2000-01) in the amount of \$500.00. David Silverman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The following sentence should be added to the end of Item Five—New Members and New Member Reception: The nine prospective members who attended our new member reception included Amy Peters, Laurence McKinney, Shunsuki Yamaguchi, Dimitar Sassellov, Sheila Doran-Sasselov, Martha Call-Karris, Lisa Berezin, Diane Connor, and Elinore Kagan.

David Silverman moved to approve the minutes from February 7, 2001, as amended. Shari Craig seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item Two -- Requests for Payments

Requests for Payment were tabled because the Council Treasurer was not able to attend the meeting.

Item Three -- Discussion with New Candidates

One potential new Council member, Jamie Doyle, attended the meeting. Council members all introduced themselves and, when applicable, described their position on the Council. Council members also described the monthly Council meetings as well as the additional meetings we schedule during the grant review process in the fall. The grant review process was also explained. Jamie Doyle in turn described her professional experience and her interest in joining the Council.

Item Four -- Council Discussion About Adding New Members

Council members agreed to limit the discussion of new candidates at this time to only candidates who: 1.) have attended a meeting (either the reception on February 2, 2001 or the meeting on March 7, 2001); 2.) have submitted either their resume or a letter to officially state their interest and qualifications; and 3.) who the Council agrees are strong candidates for joining the Council. Two candidates fit this criterion: Jamie Doyle and Amy Peters. A discussion of these two candidates revealed that both candidates would bring unique skills, interests, and experiences to the Council and that they would both be valuable new members.

David Silverman will contact Elinore Kagan, who attended the new members reception and expressed an interest in the Council, to request that she submit her resume for consideration if she remains interested in the Council. All candidates from our February 7th meeting have been notified about our March, April, and May meetings.

Four additional possible candidates have contacted Council members directly. These individuals include Eva Karger, Emily Roos, Suzanne McLeod, and Jerry Newman, all of whom will be notified by Christine Alaimo regarding the time and place of our meeting next month.

In addition to our search for several new members, the Council is also actively looking for members to assume the position of Treasurer and to take over the responsibilities of Corresponding Secretary.

Item Five – Voting on New Members

Shari Craig moved to accept Jamie Doyle as a member of the Council. David Silverman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Shari Craig moved to accept Amy Peters as a member of the Council. David Silverman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item Six – Other Business

The Council discussed making an effort to attend some of the performances or openings of grant recipients. It was discussed that once we have more members on the Council, we might encourage one or more members to compile and share information monthly regarding upcoming performances or openings funded by the Council. It was agreed that the sharing of this information in our monthly meeting may make it easier for Council members to attend such performances more frequently.

Cheryl Hemenway volunteered to take over the Corresponding Secretary's responsibilities, which previously have been handled by Carol Mahoney. It was also agreed that in the coming months the Council should review the hot sheet what we include with the grants that are distributed via the library and elsewhere and that the Council should also review the correspondence packets that are sent to the grant applicants.

The Gideon Cohen Memorial Art Award was discussed. This is an award of funds granted by the Arts Council to a student at Arlington High School for the purpose of recognizing artistic talent and achievement. The winning student is selected by the Scholarship Committee and art teachers at the high school. The Arts Council discussed the amount of the grant in past years and determined that the amount of this year's grant would be \$500.00. The Council also discussed the possibility of awarding moneys to two students instead of just one but decided this year to award the grant to one student. It was decided that it would be beneficial to discuss this award earlier in the year next year to allow time to fully consider granting money to more than one student.

David Silverman moved to approve the amount of \$500.00 for the Gideon Cohen Memorial Art Award. Christine Alaimo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Camilla Lillbask contacted David Silverman about Author Study & Visit (grant #2001-07) to say that although she has completed this project, she does not need the \$150.00 funds of this grant.

Mark Schafer contacted David Silverman about Novel Translation (grant #99-37) to say that although he has translated ¼ of the novel and has provided a benefit to the community by giving a talk at the Center for the Arts, he will not complete the rest of his proposed project by April 1, the date of his extension. He will submit an official letter agreeing to relinquish the remaining \$1500 of his grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm by David Silverman.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Alaimo, *Recording Secretary*

